

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (COMANECI, NADIA), RO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF NADIA COMANECI U.S.
VISIT

1. ACCORDING TO U.S. GYMNASTICS FEDERATION, GOR IS SAYING THAT NADIA MUST CANCEL HER U.S. TOUR, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 9-26, FOR "MEDICAL REASONS." LATEST NEGATIVE WORD ON VISIT WAS PRECEDED BY CONFLICTING SIGNALS.

2. FEDERATION IS UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET AT LATE CANCELLATION, PARTICULARLY AT NADIA'S ABSENCE FROM AMERICA CUP GYMNASTICS COMPETITION AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN MARCH 10-13, WHICH IS PREMIER U.S. GYMNASTICS EVENT. GOR HAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO SEND TEAM MINUS NADIA, BUT FEDERATION IS INCLINED TO CANCEL REST OF TOUR IF NADIA CANNOT COME.

3. NADIA'S VISIT IS OF COURSE PRIVATELY ARRANGED AND NOT UNDER USG AUSPICES. FYI ONLY DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT TO DATE HAS BEEN TO RECOMMEND IN FAVOR OF SOME CONTACT BE-
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TWEEN NADIA AND PRESIDENT CARTER OR HIS FAMILY DURING WASHINGTON PORTION OF TOUR MARCH 14-15. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHITE HOUSE REACTION. END FYI.

4. IN VIEW OF GREAT PUBLIC INTEREST AROUSED BY NADIA'S SCHEDULED TOUR, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH APPROPRIATE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. TOUR ORGANIZERS

IN U.S. HAVE AGREED TO DELAY DECISION ON WHETHER TO
CANCEL EVENTS FOLLOWING AMERICA CUP COMPETITION FOR 24
HOURS PENDING WORD FROM BUCHAREST. AS MINIMUM, THEY
WOULD APPRECIATE APPEARANCE BY NADIA AT AMERICA CUP,
EVEN IF SHE CANNOT COMPETE. (SHE WOULD ALSO BE PRE-
SENTED WOMAN ATHLETE OF YEAR AWARD AND CHECK FOR
\$10,000.) OPTIMALLY, OF COURSE, THEY WOULD LIKE HER
TO MAKE ENTIRE TOUR.

5. WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DECISION DEGREE TO WHICH YOU
BECOME INVOLVED. WE MUST, HOWEVER, HAVE RESPONSE BY
COB MARCH 1.
VANCE

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